GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1240
ANSWERED ON:26.11.2007
LOSS OF LAND DUE TO SOIL EROSION
Vallabbhaneni Shri Balashowry

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Soil and Water Conservation Research and Training Institute has warned of the dangers of rapid loss of prime agricultural land due to soil erosion;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA)

(a) & (b): Yes, Sir. Nearly 44% of the total area in the country has erosion rates more than the permissible limit of 10 tonnes/ha/year. Accordingly, over 5.3 billion tonnes of soil and around 8.4 million tonnes of plant nutrients are lost every year through water erosion. Rough estimates show agricultural loss from soil erosion to the tune of Rs. 5200-8400 crores per annum.

(c) The Government is implementing location specific erosion control measures developed by Central Soil and Water Conservation Research and Training Institute, Dehradun through different integrated watershed management programmes run by various agencies.